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Robert S. Allen-Paul Scott Report

CPYRGHT

Dodd, Butler Feud Over Platform

LOS ANGELES — There is a piece of strangely unfinished business of the Democratic Convention that is going to be aired on the floor of the Senate when it reconvenes August 2.

Senator Thomas Dodd, Conn., a member of the platform committee, has served notice on party leaders that he will raise the case of a mysteriously lost plank dealing with Americans imprisoned in Red China and Russia.

As drafted by Dodd and unanimously approved by the Platform Committee, this plank declared: "We will continue to make every effort to effect the release of American civilians and servicemen now unjustly imprisoned in Red China and elsewhere in the Communist empire."



Mr. Allen

EXACTLY how and why this plank vanished from the printed version of the platform is baffling. All Dodd's backstage efforts to get at the bottom of this curious affair have been thwarted by retiring National Chairman Paul Butler.

"The convention may not have been rigged,"

told Dodd bitterly to Senator Hubert Humphrey, Minn., "but Butler sure mishandled it."

"That seems to be the general feeling," agreed Humphrey. "It's astonishing how many people have complaints and grievances against him. It almost seems as if he went out of his way to antagonize and be provocative."

Furious over the mysterious deletion of his plank, Senator Dodd sought to reach Representative Chester Bowles, Conn., for an explanation, but Bowles was then on the podium presenting the platform to the convention.

Aides of Bowles advised Dodd to take up the matter with Butler, as he had handled the printing of the platform.

"WHAT HAPPENED to my plank on our prisoners behind the Iron Curtain," he demanded of Butler. "Why isn't it in the printed platform? Who cut it out and on what grounds?"

"There must be some mistake," replied Butler.

"I'm a fully accredited delegate," declared Dodd, "and I am going to offer my plank as an amendment to the platform from the convention floor."

"You can't do that," asserted Butler. "The platform committee voted that none of its members would offer amendments from the floor. You agreed to that."